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Adoption of the report of the Committee on the work of its forty-first session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Ayman **Elgammal** (Egypt)

Addendum

Coordination questions: implementation of the Special Initiative for the Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s

(Item 5 (b))

1. At its 5th meeting, on 12 June 2001, the Committee considered the report of the independent evaluation of the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on Africa (UNSIA) (E/AC.51/2001/6) and the comments of the Secretary-General thereon (E/AC.51/2001/7).

2. The report was introduced by the representative of ECA (co-Chair of UNSIA). He stated that in the absence of the review team, ECA was assuming the responsibility for introducing their report. The note by the Secretary-General was introduced by the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries.

Discussion

3. Doubt was raised about the quality and validity of the evaluation report for a number of reasons. First and foremost, it was felt that the duration of two months for the evaluation were inadequate to ensure a detailed analysis to be done. In addition, the questionnaire was considered to be too simple to capture, in full, the information required for a thorough evaluation. Furthermore, it was noted that only six of 53 countries in Africa were visited. Finally, a number of persons whose names appeared

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in the list of persons interviewed clarified that they had had general discussions over lunch on Africa and that these could not be considered as interviews on UNSIA.

4. It was also observed that while the report referred to UNSIA's inability to bring in additional financial resources, it had failed to mention those resources that were actually mobilized through its efforts.

5. In commenting on the note by the Secretary-General, disappointment was expressed that even though the disclaimer contained in the note indicated that the Secretary-General did not necessarily agree with some of the views of the evaluators, no details on this were given. It was also noted that a minority of eight agencies had commented on the evaluation report, as compared to the 17 agencies which provided inputs to the 2000 Progress Report presented to the Committee.

6. Concern was expressed that the progress reports on the implementation of UNSIA submitted annually to the Committee had been very positive as compared to the evaluation report, especially since the findings and main recommendation of the latter had been endorsed by seven of the eight agencies that had commented on the report.

7. Views were expressed that endorsed the main recommendation of the evaluation report — that UNSIA be brought to a close. However, less support was expressed for the "dialogue framework" which was recommended to replace it. Doubts were expressed on whether ECA was best placed to assume the role recommended by the report, and the view was expressed that what is required now in addressing African development is action rather than dialogue.

8. The view was expressed that bringing UNSIA to a closure at this point would be premature, in the light of the final review of UN-NADAF scheduled for 2002. The point was made that the final review of UN-NADAF will provide an opportunity for a holistic approach to the evaluation of all initiatives on Africa, and for consensus on a comprehensive framework based on African ownership and leadership.

9. The view was expressed that the information contained in the evaluation of UNSIA, in particular in paragraph 57 of the evaluation report and in the penultimate paragraph of the note by the Secretary-General, made it clear that the United Nations Secretariat, as well as the agencies involved, had a role in obstructing the progress of UNSIA.

Conclusion and recommendation

10. The Committee requested the Secretary-General that a more detailed examination be conducted of the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative for Africa, in the context of the final evaluation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa, and be submitted to it for consideration at its forty-second session.